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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/066,154	01/31/2002	Lawrence A. Denenberg	23484-011	3555

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MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS,
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Boston, MA 02111

EXAMINER

ARMSTRONG, ANGELA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2626

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/05/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/066,154

Applicant(s)

DENENBERG ET AL.

Examiner

Angela A. Armstrong

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/6/06.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims pending in the application are 1,3-11,13,16-18,20-24,27,28,30-35,37-44,48,50-57,59,61,63-73,75,77-79,82,84-89,91,93-101,103,106-108,110-114,117,118 and 120-133.

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims rejected are 1,3-11,13,16-18,20-24,27,28,30-35,37-44,48,50-57,59,61,63-73,75,77-79,82,84-89,91,93-101,103,106-108,110-114,117,118 and 120-133.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3-11, 13, 16-18, 20-24, 27-28, 30-35, 37-44, 48, 50-57, 59, 61, 63-73, 75, 77-79, 82, 84-89, 91, 93-101, 103, 106-108, 110-114, 117-118, and 120-133 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber (US Patent No. 6,434,524) in view of Kendall et al (US Patent No. 5,995,918).

Weber discloses a system and method for interacting with objects, via a computer using utterances, speech processing and natural language processing.

3. Regarding claim 1, Weber discloses an apparatus, system and method implementing a general purpose computer (102) including associated memory (108) storage (col. 5, lines 27-29); a voice application platform ("voice interaction system) including a speech recognizer (200) for recognizing speech as a function of said unit of input information (col. 4, lines 13-17); and a command processor (202) adapted for analyzing a first unit of input information. Additionally, Weber teaches the system allows for adding to the context-specific grammars (col. 8, lines 38-45; col. 15, line 6 to col. 16, line 65; Figure 7A) and provides for a first application (accessing a help file or browsing the world wide web) configured to output a grammar (context-specific grammar files and context-specific dictation models) and to receive a user selection (speech interactions available to the user) associated with the grammar; a voice application platform (col.

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4, lines 13-17) adapted to receive a speech input and to receive the grammar from the first application (DDF file transferred), and to output the user selection (speech interactions) to the first application, the voice application platform including a processor (col. 3, lines 39-50) configured to analyze the grammar and to modify the grammar (col. 12, line 60 continuing to col. 13, line 24), and a speech recognizer (200) coupled to the processor and configured to interpret the speech input (speech interactions available to the user) as a function of the data input object, and to produce the user selection.

Weber does not disclose the processor is configured to analyze the grammar prior to receiving speech input, to identify at least one characteristic of the grammar independent of prior speech input. Kendall discloses a system and method for creating a language grammar. When the grammar is defined, the computer software system automatically traverses the table to enumerate all possible valid utterances in the grammar. This traversal generates a listing (corpus) of valid utterances and their respective tokens. This listing can then be used to interpret spoken utterances for a speech-enabled system. Kendall further discloses (col. 5, line 51 continuing to col. 6, line 35) the ASR grammar contains information regarding the words and phrases that the speech recognizer will be required to recognize, written in a form that is compatible with the recognizer. The file is also optimized to take advantage of peculiarities relating to the chosen speech recognizer. In an example, Kendall describes the process of modifying the grammar and/or rules of the grammar. Kendall's example specifically indicates the advantages of modifying the grammars to achieve optimization of the grammar for implementation in a specific speech recognizer.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Weber to implement a system of analyzing and modifying the grammar prior to receiving speech input, as suggested by Kendall, for the purpose of optimizing the grammar so as to improve the recognizer's accuracy and performance, as also suggested by Kendall.

Regarding claim 3, the combination of Weber and Kendall discloses characteristic is indicative that said first unit of input information includes a set of terms and said first unit of input information is modified to produce said modified first unit of input information that includes at least one additional term not included in said first unit of input information (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Regarding claim 4, the combination of Weber and Kendall discloses at least one additional term is a synonym of at least one term in said set of terms (col. 10, lines 56-61).

Regarding claim 5, the combination of Weber and Kendall discloses at least one additional term can be part of a phrase within which at least one term in said set of terms can be used (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Regarding claim 6, the combination of Weber and Kendall discloses at least one additional term is associated with a first function that can be performed when said voice application platform recognizes said at least one addition term (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Regarding claim 7, the combination of Weber and Kendall discloses said set of terms is representative of a set of responses expected to be received by said application and said at least one additional term is a synonym of at least one term in said set of terms (col. 10, lines 56-61).

Regarding claim 8, the combination of Weber and Kendall discloses said set of terms is representative of a set of responses expected to be received by said application and said at least one additional term is associated with a first function that can be performed when said voice application platform recognizes said at least one addition term, whereby said first function is adapted to include in a response to be sent to said application, at least one term in said set of terms (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Regarding claim 9, the combination of Weber and Kendall discloses first function is further adapted for substituting said at least one term in said set of terms for said at least one additional term in a response to be sent to said application (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Regarding claim 10, the combination of Weber and Kendall discloses set of terms is representative of a set of responses expected to be received by said application and said at least one additional term is associated with a first function that can be performed when said voice application platform recognizes said at least one addition term, whereby said first function is adapted to include, in a response to be sent to said application, a term selected from a memory as a function of said at least one additional term recognized by said voice application platform (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Regarding claim 11, the combination of Weber and Kendall discloses term selected from a memory is associated with a user of said voice application platform (col. 10, lines 4-16).

Regarding claim 13, the combination of Weber and Kendall discloses said first unit of input information includes a first type of input information associated with a first speech recognizer based upon a first speech recognition paradigm ("context-specific grammar") and said

first unit of input information is modified to produce a second unit of input information which includes a second type of input information associated with a second speech recognizer based upon a second speech recognition paradigm (“general grammar”) which is different from said first speech recognition paradigm (col. 3, lines 8-11).

Regarding claim 16, the combination of Weber and Kendall discloses a prompt synthesizer (col. 12, lines 47-50) adapted for receiving information representative of a prompt, and wherein said first unit of input information includes information representative of a prompt and said command processor receives said information representative of a prompt and said command processor modifies said first unit of input information as a function of said information representative of a prompt (col. 12, lines 52-59).

Regarding claim 17, the combination of Weber and Kendall discloses (col. 12, lines 45-59) a prompt synthesizer adapted for receiving information representative of a prompt, and wherein information representative of a first prompt is received from said application and said voice application platform is adapted for presenting said first prompt to a user and a second prompt to said user.

4. Regarding claims 18, 20-24, 27-28, 30-35, 37-44, 48, 50-57, 59, 61, 63-73, 75, 77-79, 82, 84-89, 91, 93-101, 103, 106-108, 110-114, 117-118, and 120-133: claims 18, 20-24, 27-28, 30-35, 37-44, 48, 50-57, 59, 61, 63-73, 75, 77-79, 82, 84-89, 91, 93-101, 103, 106-108, 110-114, 117-118, and 120-133 are similar in scope and content to claims 1, 3-11, 13, and 16-17 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-11, 13, 16-18, 20-24, 27-28, 30-35, 37-44, 48, 50-57, 59, 61, 63-73, 75, 77-79, 82, 84-89, 91, 93-101, 103, 106-108, 110-114, 117-118, and 120-133 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

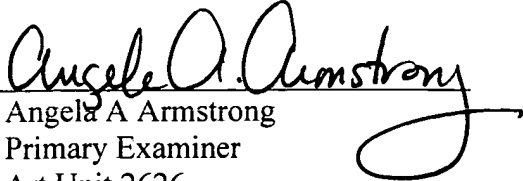
Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela A. Armstrong whose telephone number is 571-272-7598. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 11:30-8:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Edouard can be reached on 571-272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Angela A Armstrong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626

AAA
March 1, 2007